

Message Text

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LIMDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. MORE BOMBS IN MOSCOW

EMBASSY MOSCOW REPORTS THAT TWO OTHER EXPLOSIONS APPARENTLY OCCURRED IN MOSCOW ON JANUARY 8 IN ADDITION TO THE DETONATION THAT DAY OF WHAT SOVIET COLUMNIST VIKTOR LOUIS SAID WAS A BOMB IN THE CITY'S SUBWAY. ONE OF THE EXPLOSIONS REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE OPPOSITE KGB HEADQUARTERS. EMBASSY SOURCES IN THE DISSIDENT MOVEMENT DISCLAIM RESPONSIBILITY, BUT DO NOT BELIEVE THE BLASTS WERE SET OFF BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES THEMSELVES TO SERVE AS A PRETEXT FOR FURTHER REPRESSION. HOWEVER, SOURCES WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN SKEP-
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TICAL ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FIRST EXPLOSION NOW SEEM CONVINCED THAT BOTH THE AUTHORITIES AND THE NON-VIOLENT DISSIDENT MOVEMENT ARE FACING A POTENTIALLY SERIOUS CHALLENGE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE IMPUDENCE OF THE BLAST ON THE KGB'S DOORSTEP. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 486, 1/12.)

2. PORTUGAL: SOARES LOOKS AHEAD

IN A JANUARY 11 DISCUSSION OF THE PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SCENE, PRIME MINISTER SOARES TOLD AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI THAT:

--HIS PROBLEMS WITHIN THE SOCIALIST PARTY HAVE NOW BEEN RESOLVED;

--HE IS READY TO LAUNCH AN OFFENSIVE TO DEAL WITH HIS BIGGEST POLITICAL CHALLENGE, THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED LABOR UNIONS;

--HE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH SA CARNEIRO'S POPULAR DEMOCRATS DESPITE THEIR OPPOSITION TO HIS ECONOMIC PLAN, SINCE HE NEEDS THEIR SUPPORT AGAINST A PROBABLE COMMUNIST POLITICAL OFFENSIVE IN FEBRUARY; AND

--HE PLANS TO TIGHTEN UP THE GOVERNMENT'S INEFFICIENT ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS, WHICH HAD BEEN PENETRATED BY THE COMMUNISTS DURING THE GONCALVES REGIME. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 297 (LIMDIS), 1/12.)

3. JAPANESE WANT TALKS BEFORE WITHDRAWAL

ACCORDING TO EMBASSY TOKYO, MEMBERS OF JAPAN'S FOREIGN POLICY ESTABLISHMENT HAVE RECENTLY BECOME MORE FLEXIBLE IN PRIVATE ON THE ISSUE OF AMERICAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM KOREA, WHICH THEY NOW REGARD AS INEVITABLE. THEY STRESS, HOWEVER, THAT WITHDRAWAL SHOULD BE:

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--BASED ON STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS RATHER THAN AMERICAN DOMESTIC PRESSURE AND EXPLAINED AS SUCH;

--SUPPORTED BY COMPENSATING MEASURES THAT WOULD SUSTAIN THE BALANCE OF POWER IN KOREA;

--ACCOMPANIED BY DIPLOMATIC MOVES TO EASE TENSIONS; AND

--GRADUALLY AND SELECTIVELY IMPLEMENTED.

EQUALLY IMPORTANT, THE JAPANESE FEEL THE US SHOULD CONSULT WITH THE GOJ IN ADVANCE IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE DOMESTIC POLITICAL DAMAGE. THEY SUGGEST THE FIRST STEP MIGHT BE "CONSULTATIONS ON CONSULTATIONS"--A PRELIMINARY ROUND DESIGNED TO DETERMINE THE SHAPE OF FUTURE TALKS. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 487, 1/12.)

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4. BELGRADE BRIEFS CADRES ON BREZHNEV BRUSHOFF

USNATO REPORTS THAT, ACCORDING TO WEST GERMAN SOURCES, THE YUGOSLAV COMMUNIST PARTY HAS CIRCULATED A SECRET LETTER AMONG SENIOR MEMBERS ANALYZING BREZHNEV'S NOVEMBER VISIT TO BELGRADE. ACCORDING TO THE LETTER, TITO:

--REJECTED SOVIET DEMANDS FOR NAVAL BASES, PERMANENT MILITARY OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS, AND ALIGNMENT OF YUGOSLAVIA'S FOREIGN POLICY WITH THAT OF THE WARSAW PACT;

--CRITICIZED THE SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD NONALIGNMENT AFTER BREZHNEV ARGUED THE NONALIGNED SHOULD COORDINATE THEIR POLICIES WITH THE SOCIALIST CAMP; AND

--INSISTED BREZHNEV RETRACT HIS STATEMENT TO THE
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SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS THAT YUGOSLAVIA PURSUED REVOLUTIONIST POLICIES.

THE MISSION HAS ALSO LEARNED THAT ANOTHER YUGOSLAV DOCUMENT REVEALS TITO'S CONCLUSION THAT BREZHNEV HAS SUCCEEDED IN BREAKING ROMANIA'S RESISTANCE TO THE WARSAW PACT BY PLAYING UPON ITS ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE ON THE USSR. (CONFIDENTIAL) NATO 136, 1/12.)

5. IRAN TO SCALE DOWN MILITARY PRESENCE IN OMAN?

EMBASSY TEHRAN WAS TOLD BY A BRITISH COUNTERPART THAT IRAN HAS DECIDED TO THIN OUT ITS MILITARY PRESENCE IN OMAN'S TROUBLED DHOFAR PROVINCE AS A RESULT OF YEMENI COOPERATION IN RECOVERING A DOWNED IRANIAN PLANE AND ITS PILOT. THE BRITISH SOURCE SAID IRANIAN AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS WOULD REMAIN, BUT TROOPS WOULD BE REDUCED BY A THIRD TO APPROXIMATELY 2,000. (CONFIDENTIAL) TEHRAN 247 (LIMDIS), 1/11.)

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